A SPLENDID GIFT THIS ISSUE!

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13th Mar. 1993
No. 141 60p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry

A THOMAS PENCIL FOR YOU!

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NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! James and Gordon are two of the finest engines on the Fat Controller's railway. James is especially proud of his shiny red paintwork. Gordon is the Express engine who is never late. In our two part story James and Gordon are both working hard. Will James complete his most important task while Gordon attempts to reach the station in time? Peep! Peep!

OUR NEXT ISSUE!

Don't miss our next issue **(142)** of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for your splendid **Eraser** gift. There will also be a free **Balloon** with issue **143**.

COMPETITION!

You will also have the chance to win a **Thomas Toybox** in our special competition, courtesy of *Joshua Jones Ltd*!

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, just send one **red**, **yellow** and **blue** token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2

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THOMAS TOKEN

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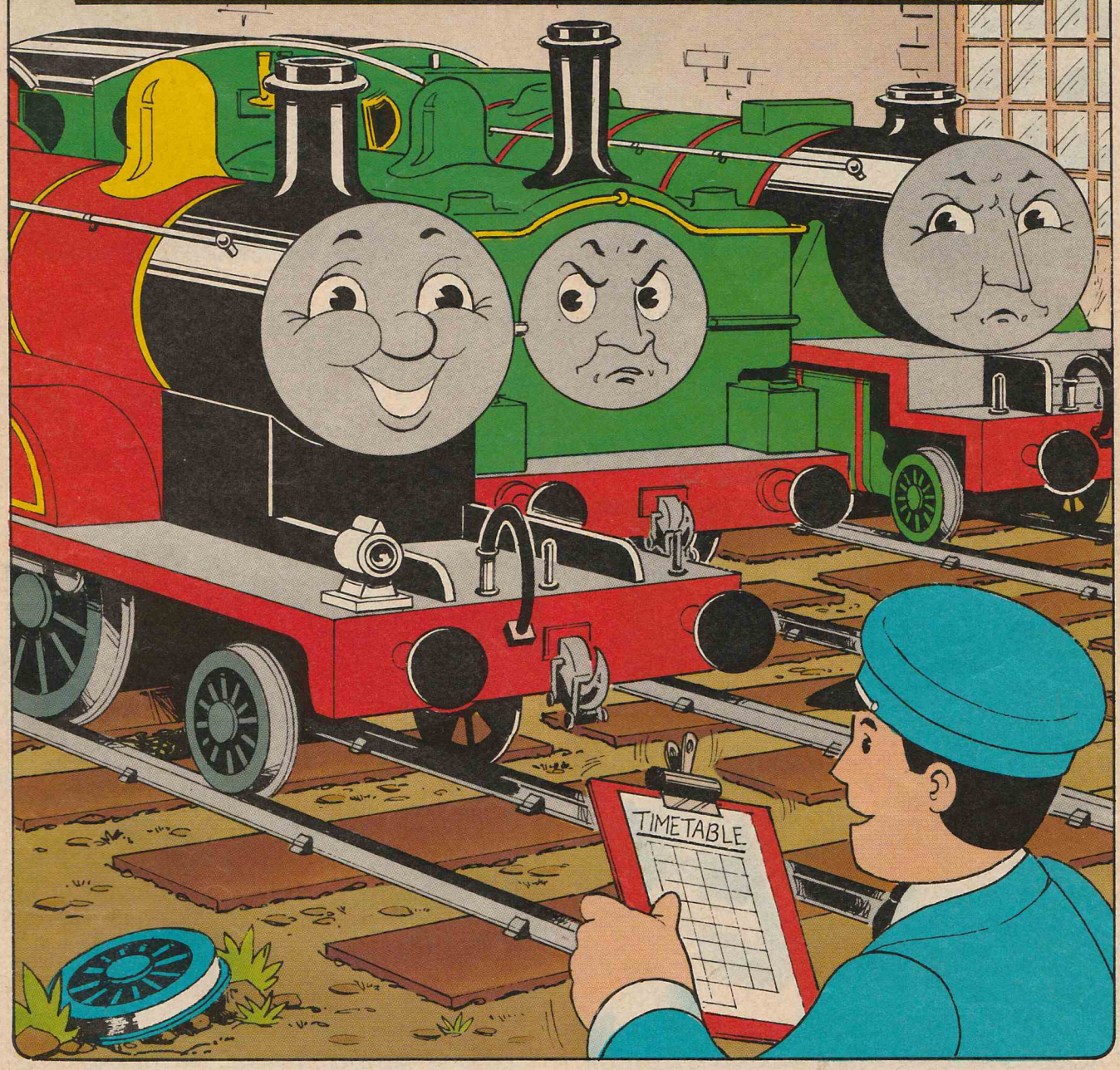
ABC AUDITED CIRCULATION BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS

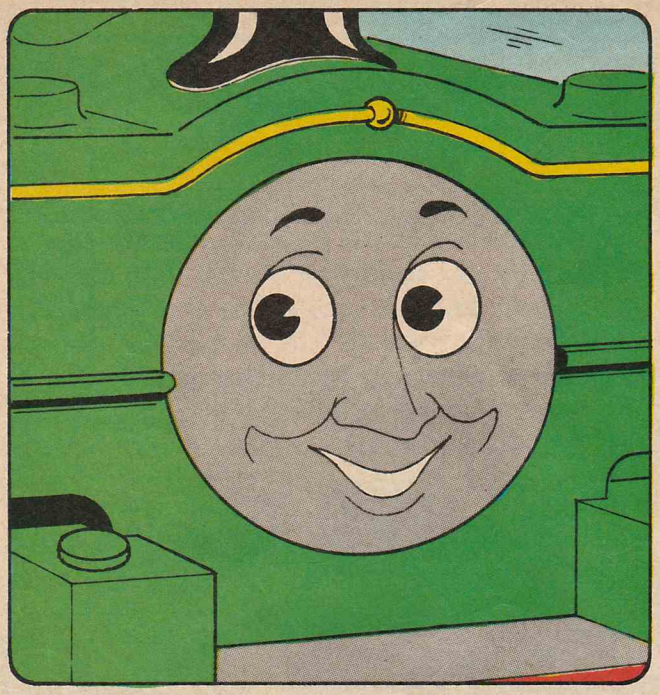
A listen and look story!

A RUSH CAN CAUSE A FUSS

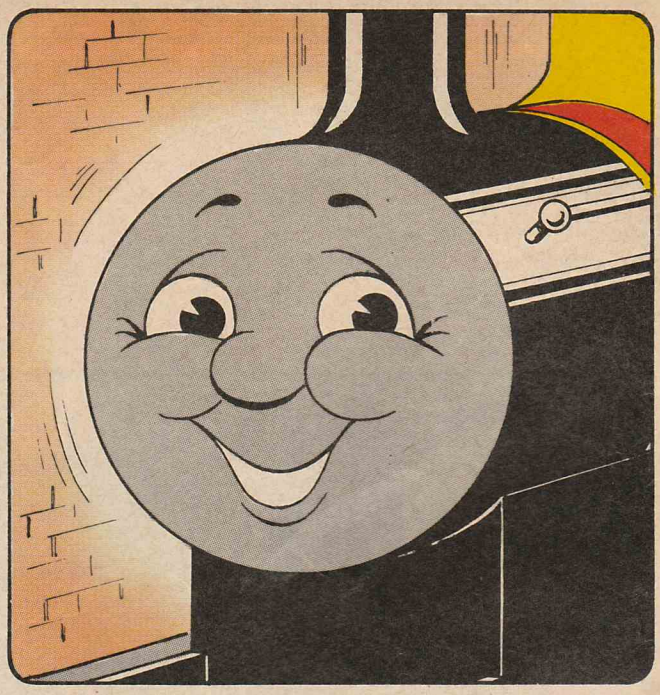


1. James is a really splendid engine. He us particularly proud of his shiny red paint and likes to boast about it to the other engines on the Island of Sodor.

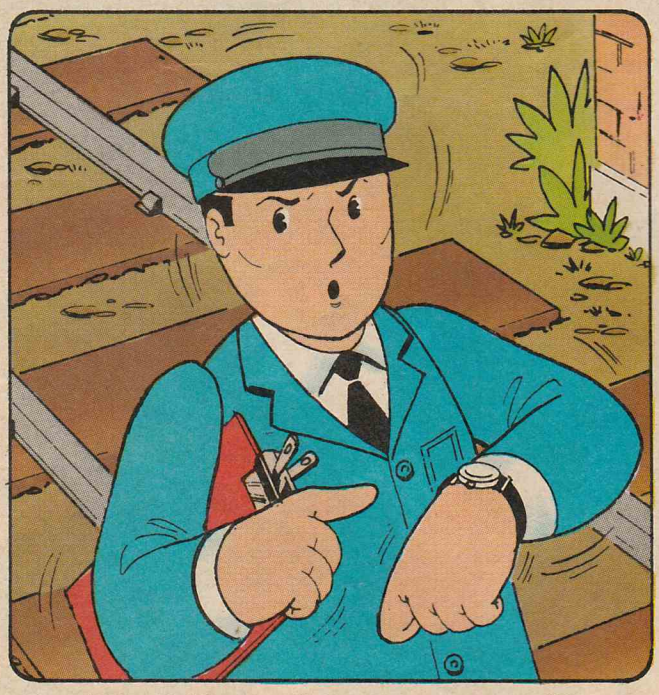
2. One morning James was in the shed. "I really am such a splendid engine," he said. "That's why the Fat Controller wants me to take the special goods train today."



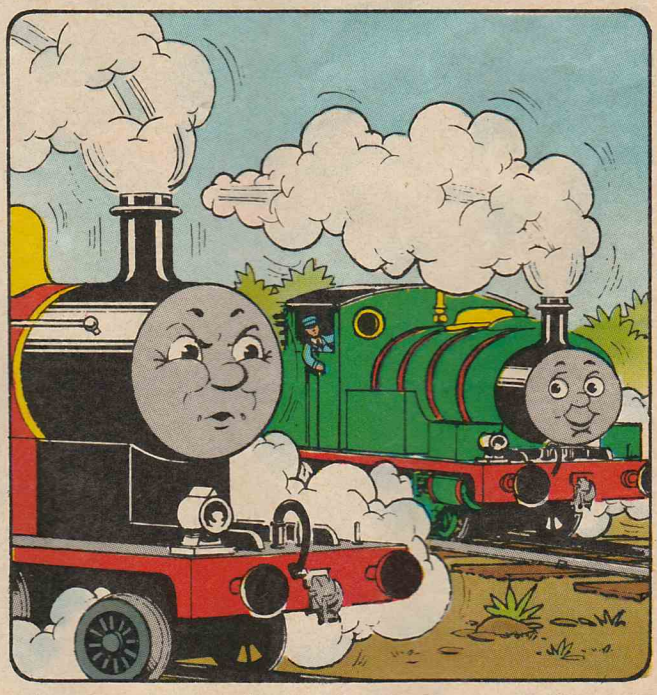
3. "A goods train!" teased Duck. "I thought such a fine engine as yourself would be above goods trains!" "Yes," agreed Henry. "You've never liked dirty trucks before!"



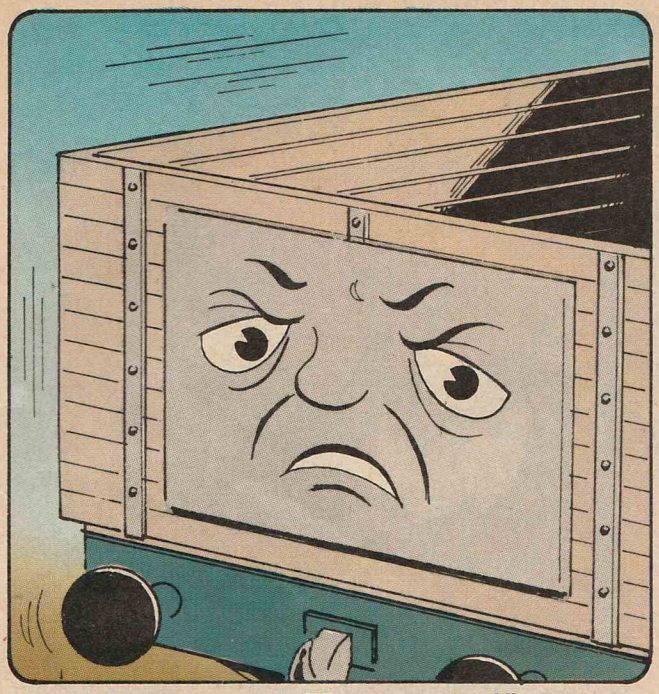
4. "Well, er . . . um . . ." James stammered. "After all this is a *special* train. I know the Fat Controller needs an engine he can rely on. You see, I'm never late or . . ."



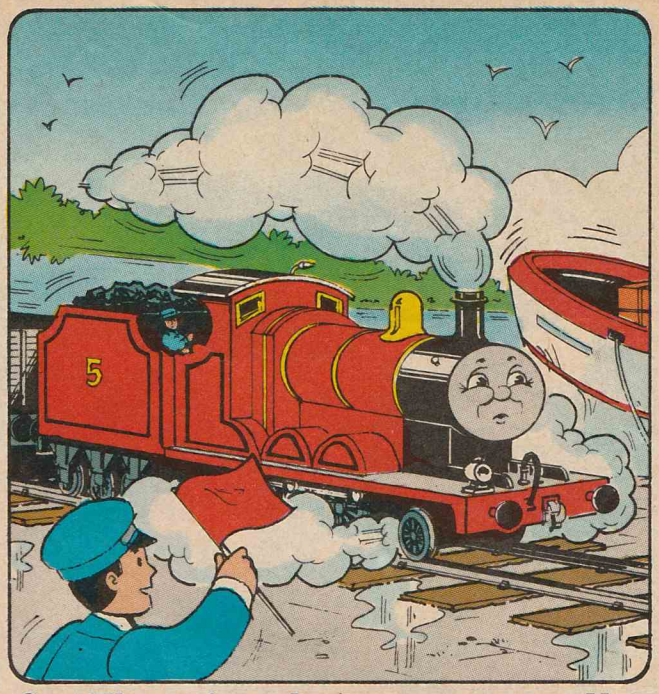
5. "Pah!" said Henry. "You were very late yesterday!" "You'll be late today as well unless you decide to get a move on," said the station-master.



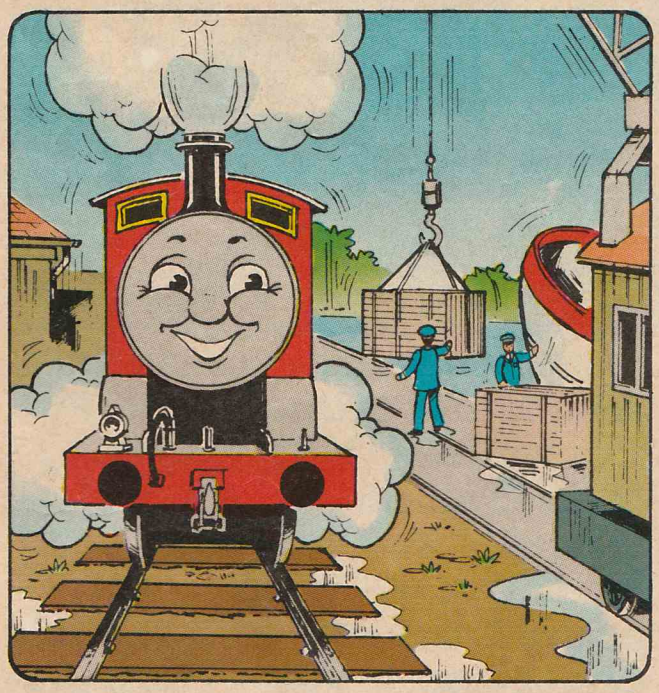
6. James hurried to collect his trucks, but he'd already wasted too much time. Now he had to wait for Percy, to get out of the way, before he could reach the siding.



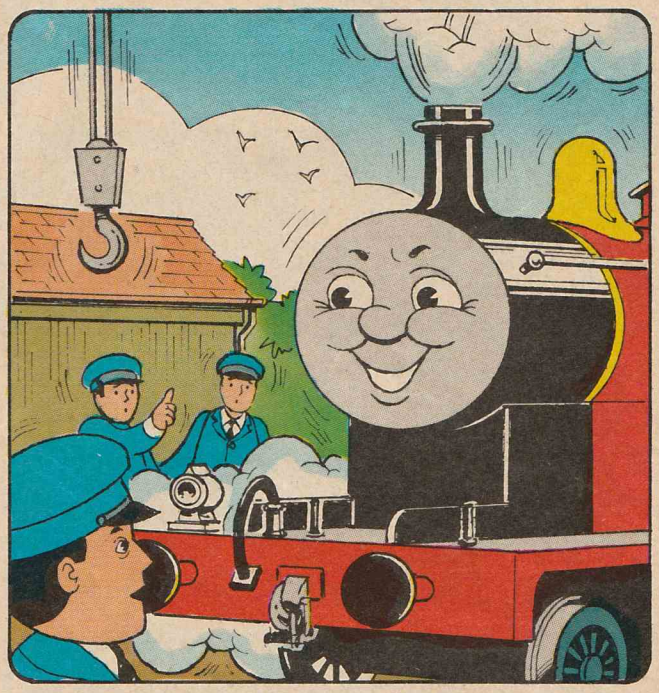
7. "Hurry up! Hurry up!" sang James to the stubborn trucks. "Don't make a fuss! Don't make a fuss!" called the trucks as they rattled down the main line.



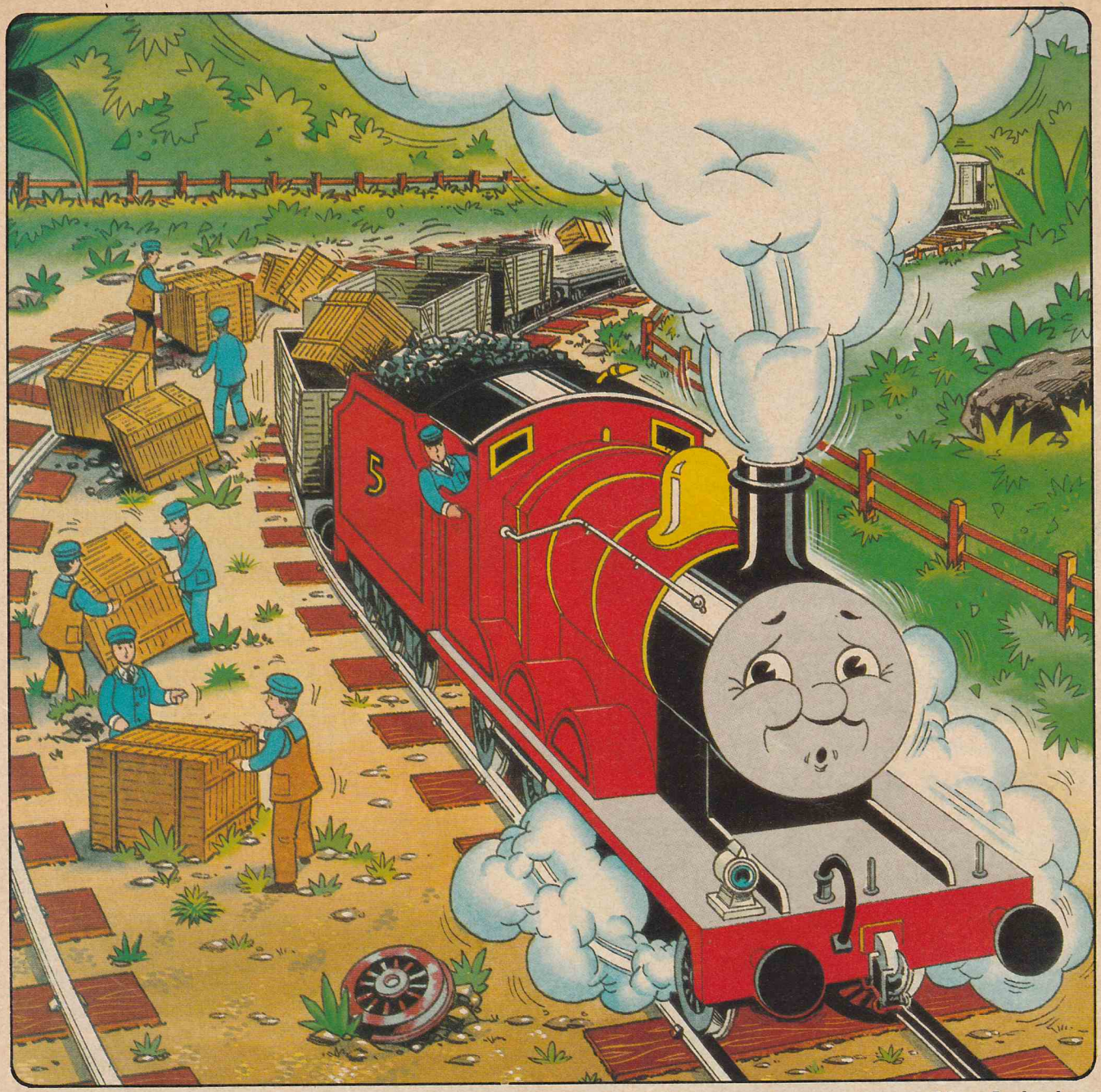
8. The trucks were really being very difficult indeed and James reached the Big Harbour half an hour behind schedule. The big ship was waiting to unload.



9. "Pip pip peep! Hurry up!" whistled James to the men on the crane. They were loading the crates onto his trucks. "Can't you see I'm late?" he cried.



10. James insisted he would have to be going. "But your crates," said the men, "they aren't properly loaded yet!" "Never mind that!" thought James and off he went.



11. James was making good time when he reached a sharp bend. As he rounded the curve six of his crates came crashing off the trucks! His driver put on the brakes. **Screech! Thump!** Down came another crate! It took the men over an hour to load the huge crates back onto the trucks. James was later than ever.

12. When James pulled into the Main Station the Fat Controller was waiting. "Sorry I'm late sir," grumbled James. "You were in too much of a rush and it caused a fuss," said the Fat Controller. "Next time I shall choose another engine for the journey." On the way to his shed, James sighed "I will never rush again."

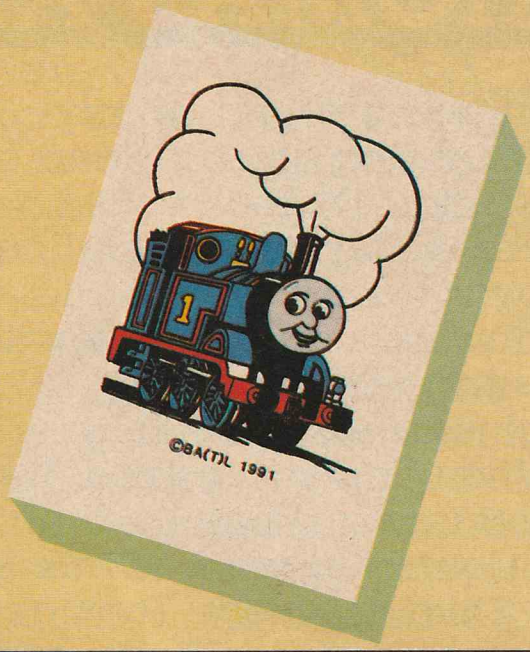
THE END

The story continues on page 17!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Don't miss issue 142 of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends fortnightly magazine for your FREE Thomas Rubber!



Thomas Rubber Gift! On sale: 13th March 1993!

NEWSAGENT'S FORM

Do you often find that **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** is sold out at your local newsagents? Well, here's a way of making sure of your copy every fortnight – just fill in the form below and hand it to your newsagent! He will then order it regularly especially for you!

Dear Newsagent,
Please save/send me a copy of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight! Thank you!

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Signature of parent or guardian .....

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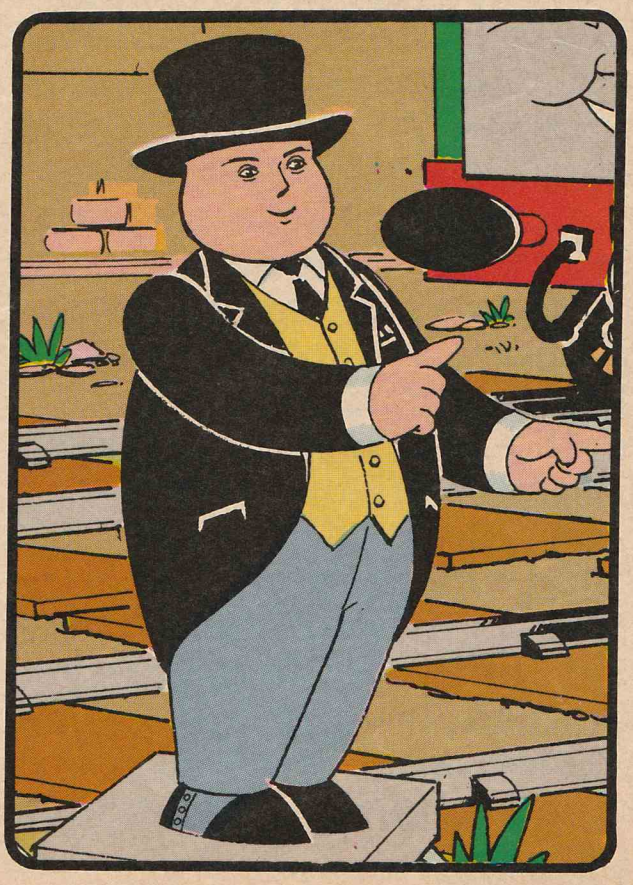


THOMAS AND TERENCE!

It was a bright, windy morning on the Island of Sodor. Thomas pulled Annie along his branch line. He was taking the Fat Controller to inspect a level-crossing where some engineers were working.

When Thomas arrived, he rolled into a siding and the Fat Controller went to talk to the Chief Engineer. Thomas saw the workmen had removed the old crossing gates and were fixing smart, new, modern ones in their place.

The Chief Engineer told the Fat Controller the job would soon be finished. The Fat Controller was pleased. He climbed back into Annie and Thomas set off for the Main Station. The wind was blowing hard as Thomas huffed and puffed slowly up a steep section of the track. He spotted his friend, Terence the Tractor, on the hillside above the line. Thomas's driver stopped for a moment so that Thomas could talk to Terence.

"Peep! Hello, Terence!" whistled Thomas. "I didn't see you there earlier!"

Terence's driver was opening a big farm gate, leading into a field of grazing cows.

"I've come to tow away a dead tree for the farmer," said Terence. "The wind blew it down in the corner of that field."

His driver steered Terence towards the entrance. Suddenly, a strong gust of wind blew the gate against the tractor. It hit Terence with a loud crash. Luckily, he was not damaged, but the wooden gate broke into pieces!

The noise startled the cows. Terence rolled forwards on his caterpillar treads. He blocked the entrance to the field in case the cows tried to escape.

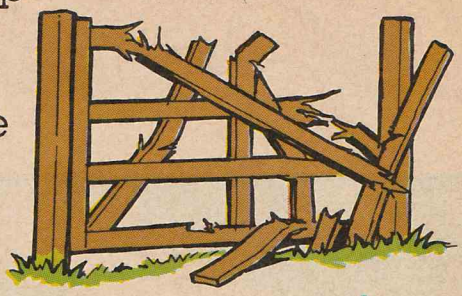
"I can't stay here all day!" he groaned.

The farmer heard the commotion and came running from the barn to see what had happened. When he saw the broken gate, he was worried.

"It will take me ages to make a new one," he said.

The Fat Controller had seen the accident from Annie's window. He had an idea. He climbed down from Annie and spoke to the farmer. Then he told Thomas's driver to back up to the level crossing.

The Fat Controller then asked Thomas's driver to fetch an extra truck from a nearby siding. By the time the extra trucks had been coupled to Thomas's carriages, the engineers had fitted the new crossing gates. The Fat Controller asked the men to help with his plan. They loaded one of the old crossing gates into the truck. Afterwards, they all climbed aboard Annie and Thomas steamed busily back to the field.



gate

The engineers lowered the old level-crossing gate on to the track and carried it to the field. They measured the entrance and then used hammers, nails and saws to make the gate smaller.

The men worked quickly and soon the gate was ready. Terence chugged away from the entrance while the engineers hung the gates on the gatepost. The level-crossing gate worked splendidly as a farm gate. The farmer thanked the Fat Controller and engineers for all their help.

"Your cows won't escape now," replied the Fat Controller. The farmer held the gate open and Terence chugged happily into the field.

"Off you go, Terence!" teased Thomas. "You can be a tractor again now, instead of pretending to be a gate!"

THE END!

Past the spri

Can you see Harold the Helicopter?
How many coaches can you count?
What are they passing by?
Point to the sheep!

Look at the bright flowe
Can you see the daffod
What colour are they?
How many cross count

ring flowers!

lowers!
ffodils?
ey?
ountry runners can you count?

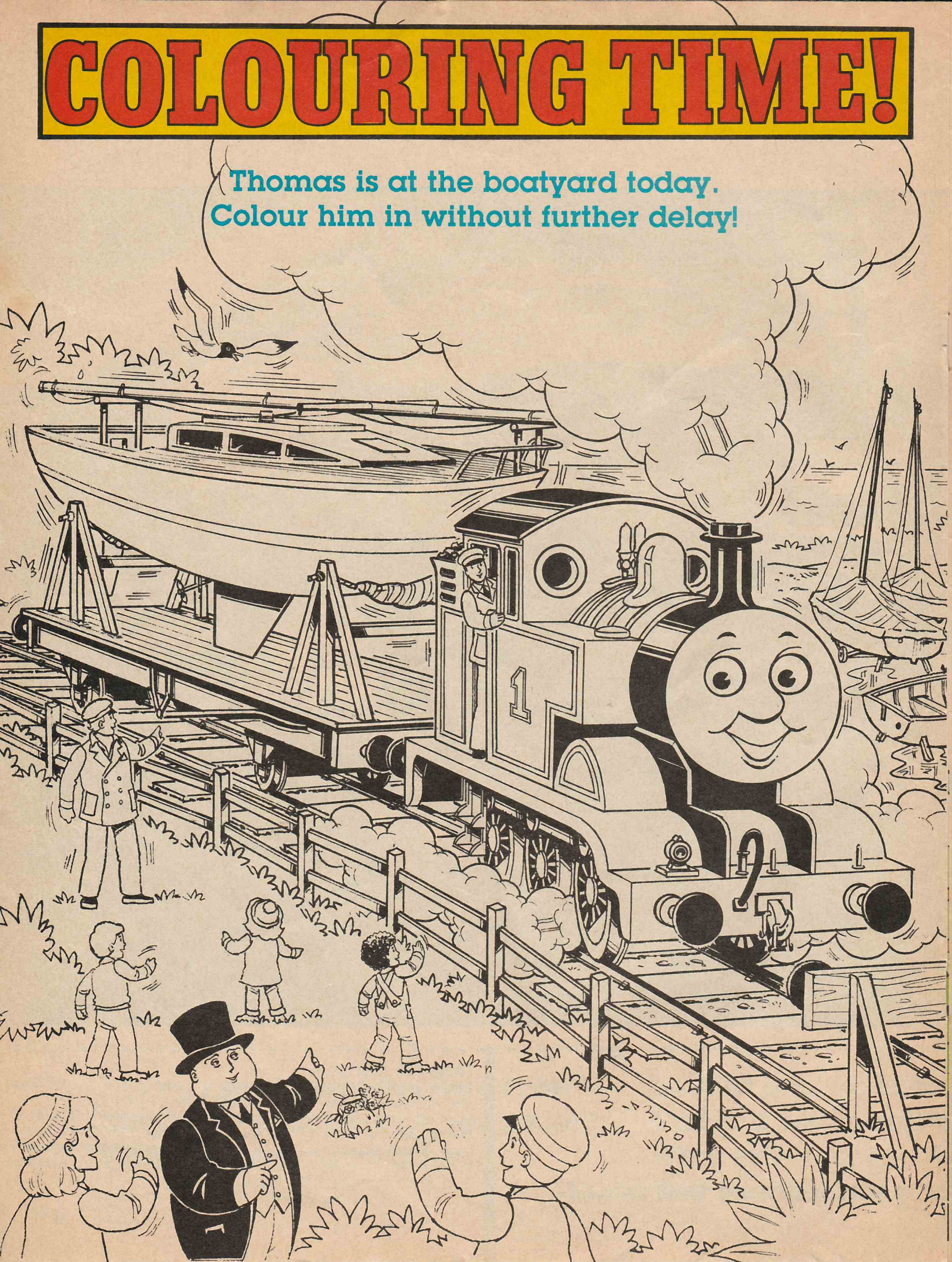
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a **'mural page'** in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

In our next issue: Past the pond!

COLOURING TIME!

Thomas is at the boatyard today.
Colour him in without further delay!

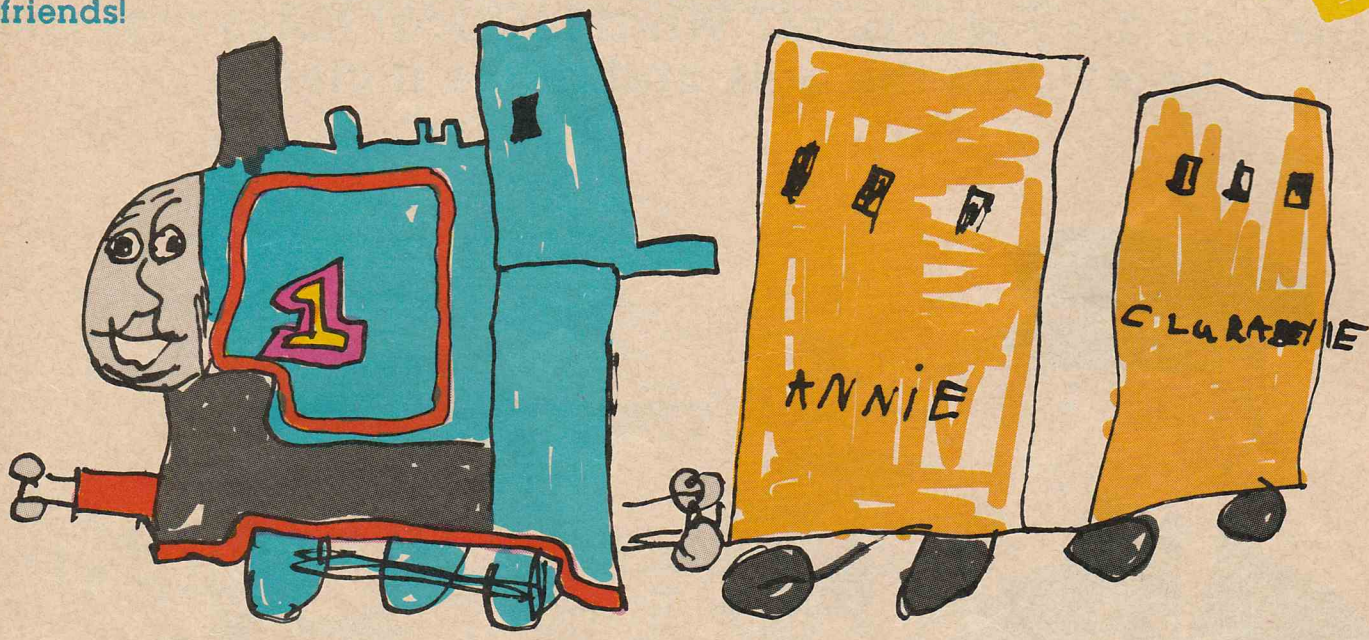


JOIN THE DOTS!

What tunes will the guards perform today? Guess which instruments they will play? What musical notes can you hear? Join the dots and make it clear!

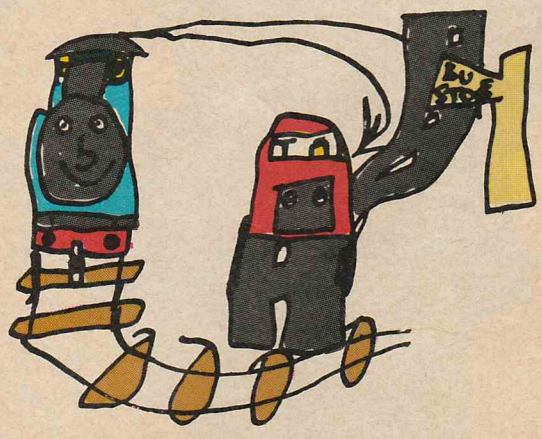
THE FAT CONTROLLER'S PICTURES PAGE!

Welcome to our pictures page featuring three of Thomas's friends!



Thomas is pulling his faithful carriages Annie and Clarabel. This bright and colourful picture was sent in by **Danny Jarvis**, aged 7.

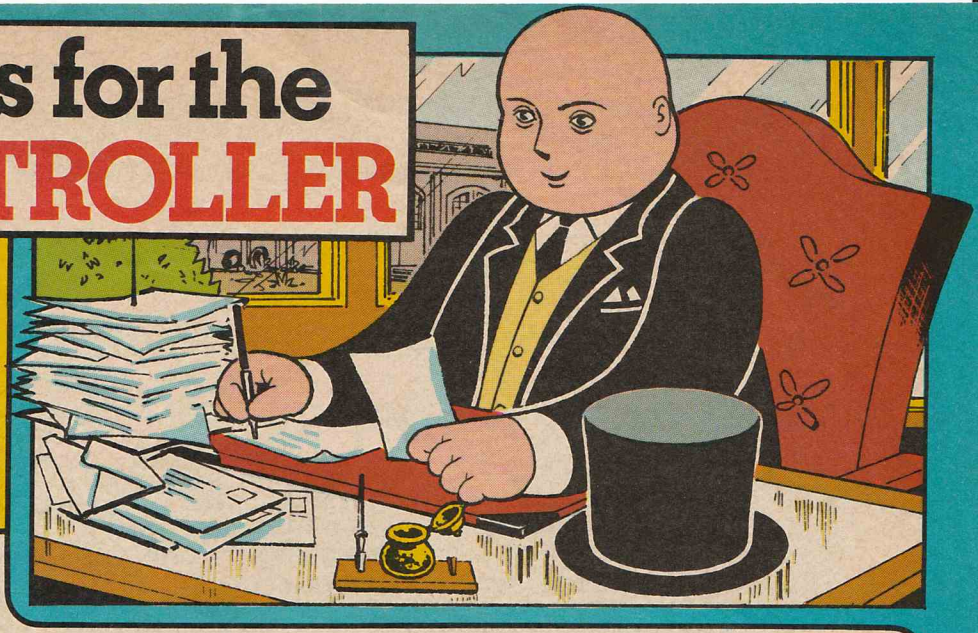
Look at this splendid drawing of Duck the Great Western Pannier engine. This was sent in by **Alan Saban**, aged 2.



Paul Bradley from Scunthorpe in Humberside has sent in an exciting picture of Thomas and Bertie! Well done!

Thank you all for sending in your pictures! We are sorry that we can only print a few. If you would like to draw a picture and have a chance of seeing it printed in a future issue, please send it to : *The Fat Controller's Pictures Page, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX.*

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STAR LETTER!

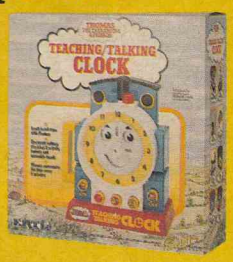
Dear Fat Controller,
I went to the Middleton Railway in Leeds. It is a very old railway. I saw Thomas, James, Percy and Henry and you spoke to me and gave me a certificate to say that I was your friend!

Love from **Jamie Hardwick**, aged 4.

I do believe that the Middleton Railway is one of the finest railway lines in the country. All of the engines keep to their timetables and the railway staff are always very helpful.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win this splendid **Thomas Teaching Talking Clock** courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*



FAMILIAR STATIONS!

Dear Fat Controller,
Can you please tell me the names of any of the stations on the Island of Sodor!

Love from **James Whitnell**, aged 2.

Yes indeed! The two main stations on the Island of Sodor are called Wellsworth and Elsworth and they serve many passengers along Thomas's branch line!

FAVOURITE STORIES!

Dear Fat Controller,
My favourite story is called **"A Task for Thomas"**. Is Thomas always given the best Job of all!

Love from **Alexander Coombe**, aged 7.

Well! Thomas isn't always given the most important job to do. In our story, I chose Thomas to take me and Lady Hatt to the school picnic because I knew it would please the school children very much!

BIRTHDAY'S!

Nicholas Attwell, Christopher Dove, Kana Macey, Jacob Inglis, Paul Bradley (37964), Jamie Philip Hoadley, Mark Whittick, Graham Francis, Gary Mc Dowell (12602), Adrian Brown (31492), Ashlee Bolton (36254), Melvina Evlyn Finch, Michael Henry Barrett.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard at least **nine weeks** in advance!

Yours
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller!

Send your letters to:

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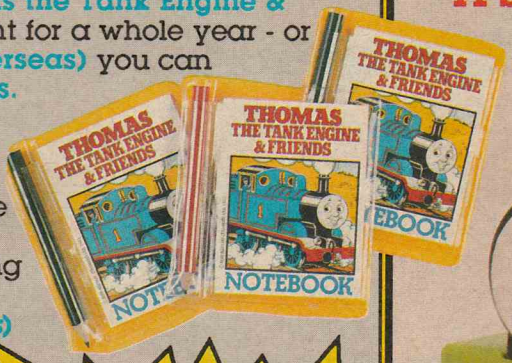
For just £18.00 (35.00 overseas), your child will be sent Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends every fortnight for a whole year - or for £10.00 (£18.00 overseas) you can subscribe for 6 months. Additionally, if you subscribe for a whole year (UK subscribers only) you will receive a FREE Percy diecast model plus a charming notebook and pencil (*see opposite pictures*) and personalised Fat Controller's Card enabling you to enter offers and competitions frequently open to Fat Controller's Card holders. Simply fill out the appropriate form below!



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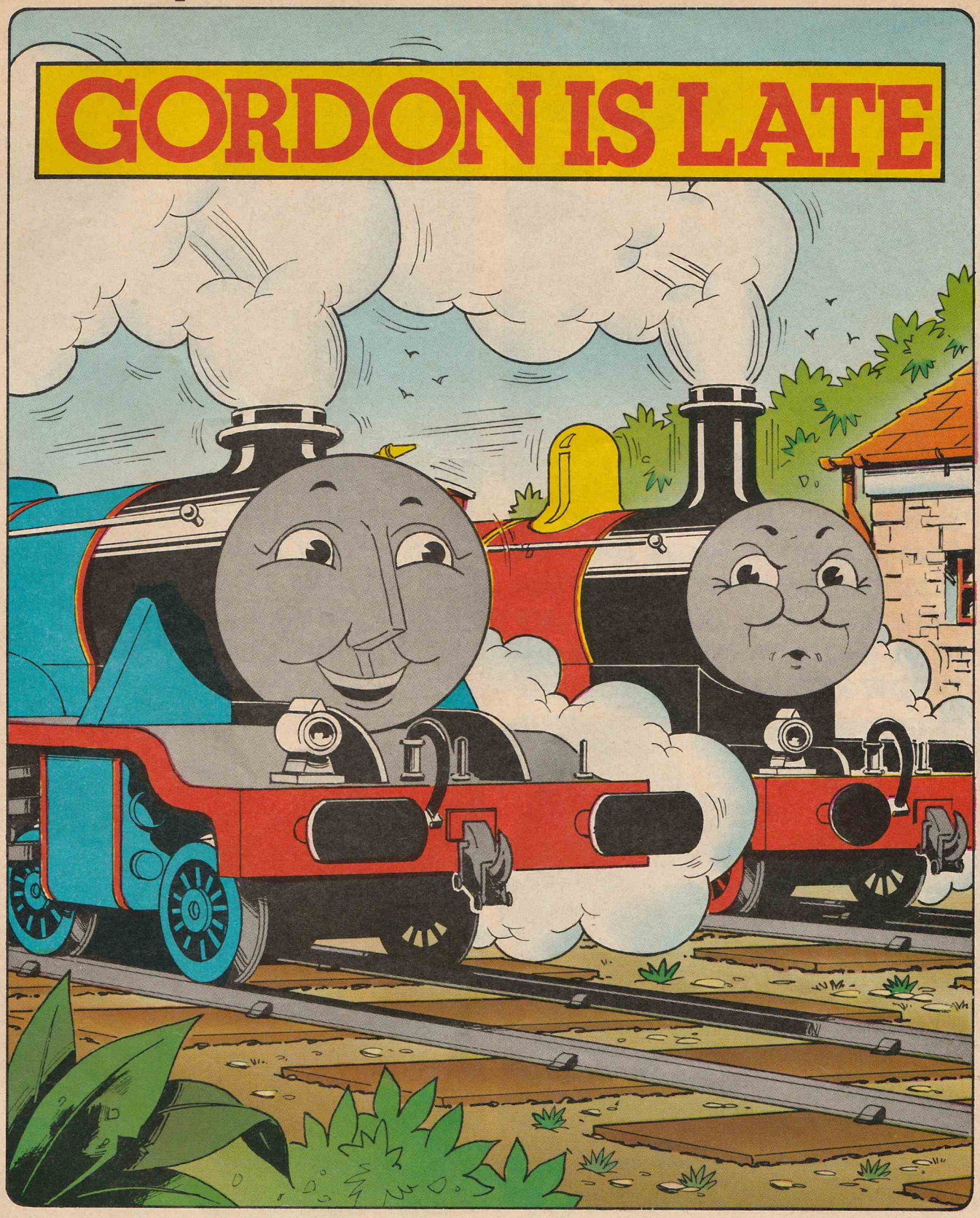
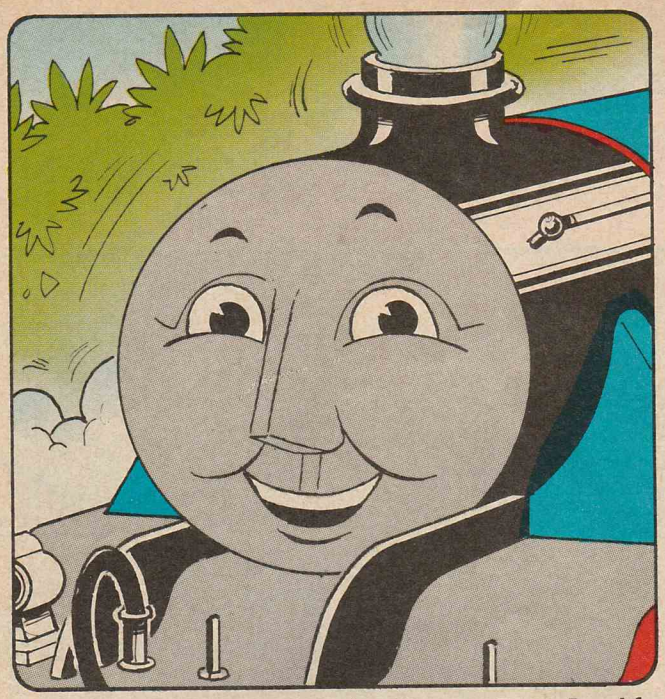
The story continues!

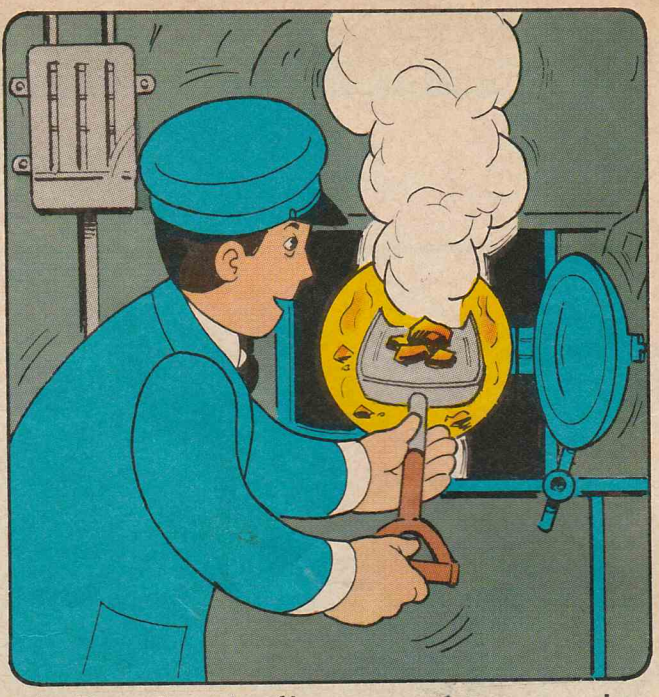


1. Gordon thought it was funny when he heard about James being late with the special goods train. He liked to make jokes about it just to annoy poor James.

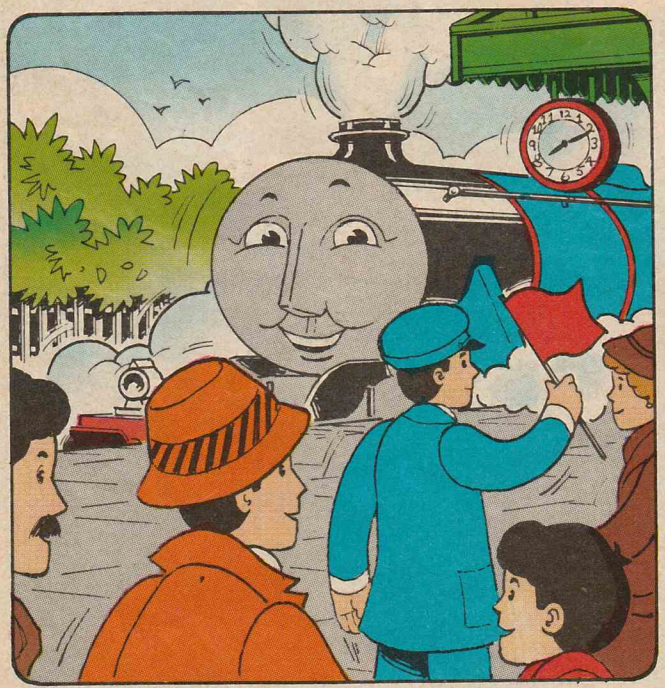
2. "The fastest train in a mess," he would call him. James didn't think this was very funny at all. He wanted to think of a way of getting his own back on Gordon.



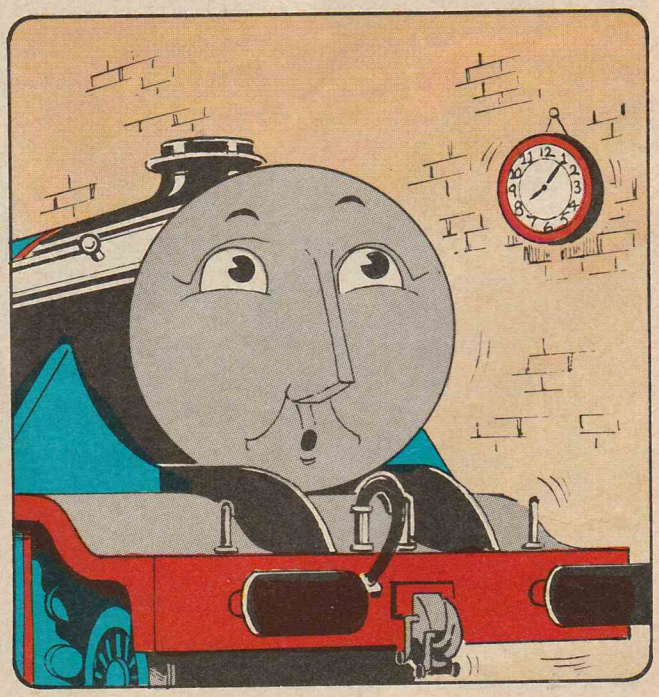
3. Gordon just laughed if James tried to tease him. He was hardly ever late. "The Express can't afford to be late!" Gordon would say. "It simply wouldn't do!"



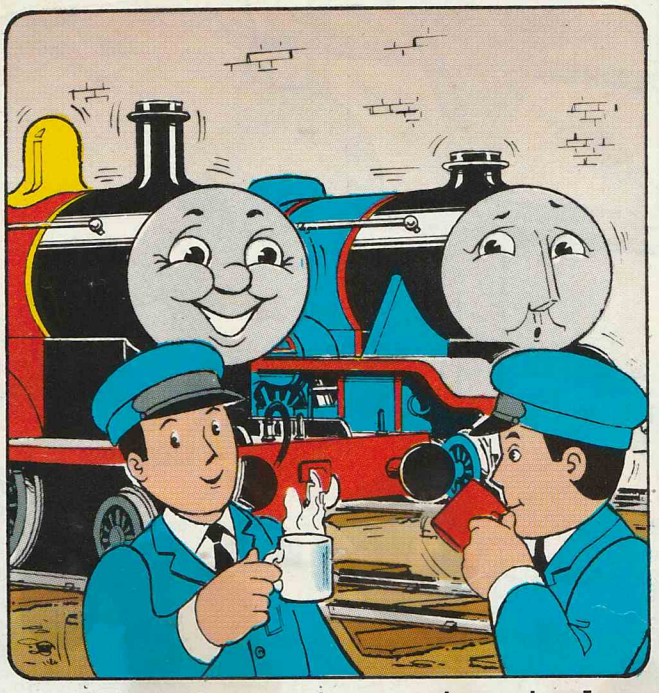
4. Gordon's fireman came in early every morning to warm up his big boiler. When his driver arrived his fire would be burning nicely ready for him to set off.



5. Gordon would puff noisily out of his shed to collect his coaches. At 8:10 he would arrive at the platform and at 8:20 exactly he would depart.

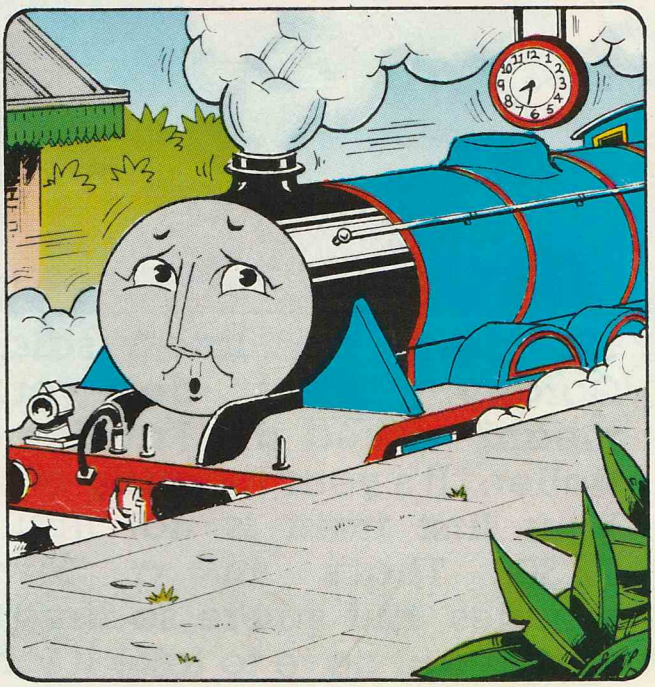


6. One morning James called out, "Wake up, Gordon! Have you seen what time it is?" Gordon looked up at the clock! It was already five past eight!

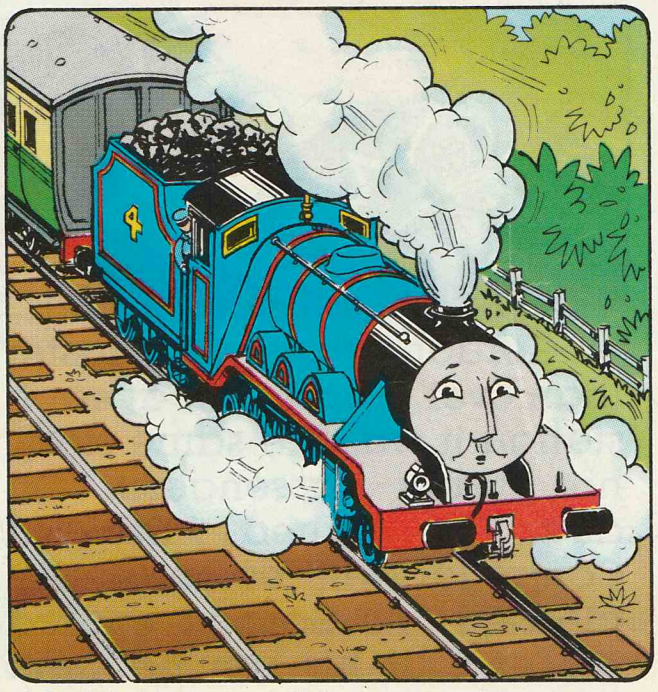


7. "I think you're going to be late today," teased James. Gordon looked about the shed and spotted his driver and fireman, sitting casually and drinking tea!

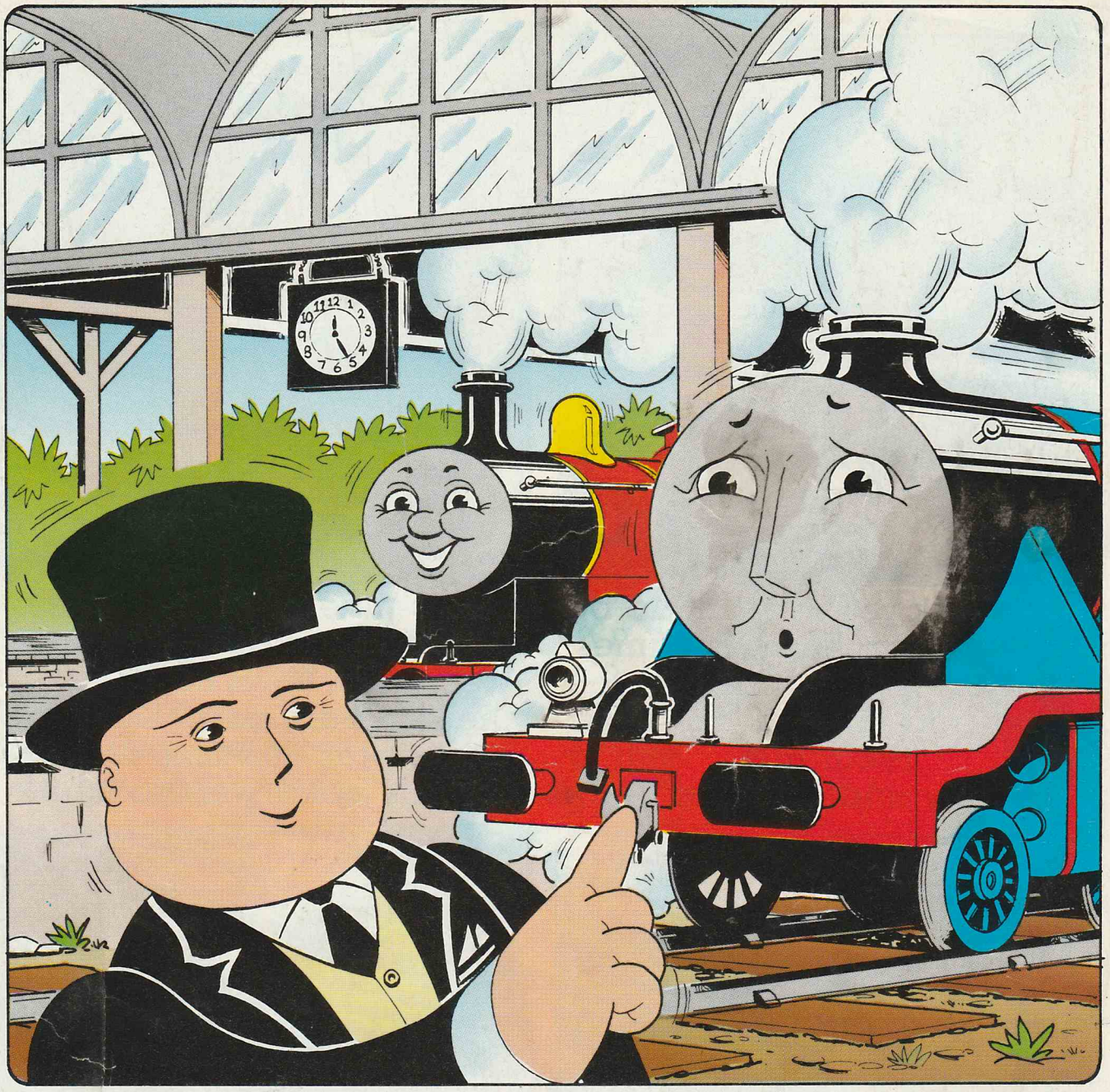
8. "It's time to stoke my fire!" Gordon shouted. "We're late! We're late! We'll never make the 8:20 train now!" Gordon's driver was startled. He ran over as quickly as he could.



9. It took Gordon a little while to warm his boiler and he didn't reach the platform until after 8:30! There were hardly any passengers. That worried Gordon very much.



10. They must have given up on me!" he sighed. "They've all gone by bus instead!" Gordon rushed on. "Hurry, hurry, hurry," he whispered. He went as fast as he could.



11. Gordon was going faster than ever before, but at each station it was the same story: not many passengers! "Oh dear," he sighed. "The Fat Controller will be most displeased." As Gordon neared the end of his run he went faster and faster. When he arrived at the Main Station, he had nearly made up the lost time.

12. "Sorry I'm late," said Gordon. "What do you mean?" asked the Fat Controller. "It's your morning off! Your first train is not until 12.30. That's in a few minutes, but you're so tired, James will have to take it for you!" Gordon realised what had happened. James laughed. "At least you weren't late!"

THE END

More fun on the line in our next issue!